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Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 11292 191554Z

67
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-11 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 CU-05 OPR-02 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 MMS-04

DRC-01 AID-20 OMB-01 IO-14 /159 W
---------- 074846
R 191458Z SEP 74
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1152
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUMM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O.11652: NA
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, ET
SUBJ: CELU CONFRONTATION WITH AFCC

REF: ADDIS 11161

1. ON SEPTEMBER 17 AFCC BEGAN COUNTER MOVES AGAINST CELU RESOLUTION (SEE REFTEL) BY PROPAGANDA BLANTS IN PRESS AND RADIO. CELU WAS ACCUSED OF CIRCULATING FALSE AND MISLEADING STATEMENTS AIMED AT SOWING DISCORD. CELU IMMATURITY REVEALED AS ITS LEADERSHIP FAILED TO UNDERSTAND MILITARY AIMS OF REMOVING OBSTACLES TO PROGRESS AND PROVIDING TIME AND TRANQUILITY FOR PEOPLE TO EXERCISE FREE CHOICE IN SETTING UP NEW GOVERNMENT. CELU ACCUSED OF EX-PLOITING WORKERS BY CONNIVING WITH FORMER DISCREDITED GOVERNMENT AND ARISTOCRACY AND WORKING AS IMPERIALIST AGENT OF "FOREIGN ELEMENTS." AFCC STATEMENTS INCLUDED REFERENCES TO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' CRITICISMS (MADE MONTHS AGO) THAT CELU LEADERSHIP HAD NEGLECTED WORKERS' INTERESTS AND FAILED TO FIGHT FOR WORKERS' RIGHTS.

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PAGE 02 ADDIS 11292 191554Z

2. DIRE DAWA UNIT OF RAILWAY WORKERS SENT MESSAGE TO AFCC SUPPORTING

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND ASSERTING CELU NOT REPRESENTATIVE OF WORKERS, BUT INSPIRED BY DISGRUNTLED FOREIGN ELEMENTS WHO SUPPORTED

FORMER REGIME. ALTHOUGH MESSAGE GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE, ITS IMPACT LESSENED BY COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT RAILWAY WORKERS ARE SPLIT INTO SEVERAL FACTIONS. THIS MANEUVER WAS CLEARLY EFFORT BY ONE GROUP CURRY FAVOR WITH AFCC.

3. WHILE DIN OF PROPOGANDA CONTINUED, AFCC SENT REPRESENTATIVE TO CELU MORNING SEPTEMBER 18 PROPOSING TALKS. CELU IMMEDIATELY AGREED AND THREE HOUR SESSION TOOK PLACE AT AFCC LATER IN DAY. TALKS DESCRIBED BY CELU LEADERS AS CONSTRUCTIVE WITH PROGRESS MADE TOWARD "SOLVING PROBLEMS." FURTHER MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED, AND MUTUAL AGREEMENT NOT RULED OUT.

4. MEANWHILE, CONTACTS BETWEEN UNIVERSITY STUDENT'S ASSOCIATION AND CELU AHVE BEEN FREQUENT, AND EACH ORGANIZATION IS VOICING SUPPORT FOR OTHER. RUMORS ABOUND OF OTHER GROUPS, INCLUDING TEACHERS AND SOME CIVIL SERVANTS, TENTATIVELY IDENTIFYING THEM-SELVES WITH CELU OBJECTIVES.
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EO Systematic Review
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